

WORK MORE IN HARMONY WITH ROADS

The Result of a Conference Between Members of the Inter-State Commerce Commission and R.R. Officials.

Committee is Assured by Magnates That Their Lines Will Conform to the Law in Good Faith. Pledges Are Given.

Washington, Dec. 28.—As a result of the conference today between members of the inter-state commerce commission and the representatives of the leading trans-Mississippi railroads, it is believed that the commission will hereafter work more in harmony with the railroads. Regarding it, the following official statement was issued tonight by Chairman Knapp:

"The conference this morning with western railway officials was not sought by the commission as certain papers have incorrectly stated, but its purpose was legitimate and commendable and warrants the expectation of beneficial results.

"The object of the committee was to assure the commission of the united and determined disposition of the lines represented to conform to the law in good faith and in every respect, and to aid the commission in its enforcement. Pledges to this effect were given by all present, with the further promise to report every illegal transaction which may come to their knowledge or of which they may have well-grounded suspicion.

"While this visit was unsolicited, as above stated, it was not unwelcome, and the commission have no reason to doubt the sincerity of the movement or its practical value. That it will result in the complete discontinuance of wrongful practices is, perhaps, too much to expect, for time alone will test the degree of its usefulness, but a marked improvement in the observance of tariff rates may be fairly anticipated. If the promised co-operation is actually and continuously afforded, the payment of rebates and the granting of secret advantages will, it is hoped, be reduced to a minimum.

The railroad men who attended the conference were:

G. T. Nicholson, vice president of the Atchafalaya, Topeka & Santa Fe Ry.; H. R. McCullough, vice president of the Chicago & Northwestern; J. H. Hilland, vice president of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul; J. M. Johnson, assistant to the vice president of the Gould lines; J. F. Holden, freight traffic manager of the Rock Island; J. W. Blabon, freight traffic manager of the Chicago & Alton; Howard Morris, vice president and general manager of the Wisconsin Central; C. L. Wellington, general traffic manager of the Colorado Southern; C. Holle, traffic manager of the Missouri, Kansas & Texas; W. L. Martin, vice president of the Soo lines; J. C. Stubbs, vice president and traffic director of the Harriman lines; E. E. Smythe, general freight agent of the Kansas City Southern.

PRESIDENT OF CORNELL

College Defends Football in Address Before New York Teachers.

Syracuse, N. Y., Dec. 28.—President J. G. Schurman, of Cornell University, in an address before the New York state teachers' association and seven other organizations of teachers tonight gave a defense of football on the ground that it helps discipline and keeps students from vice and rowdiness. He made a plea for longer tenure of office for teachers, more pay and appointment on merit alone.

IN CHAPTERS

Former Governor Odell of New York to Publish Dealings With Roosevelt.

New York, Dec. 28.—"I intend to publish the history of my dealings with President Roosevelt in chapters. These chapters will be made public from day to day. The first installment will be ready soon. I believe it and those to follow it will prove interesting contributions to political literature."

So spoke State Chairman Odell at the Republican club tonight.

Odell promises one chapter on campaign contributions by the trusts.

National Chairman Cortelyou and Governor Higgins will also be put upon the gridiron in chapters by Odell.

Archbishop Brings Suit.

Urbana, O., Dec. 28.—Archbishop Moeller has sued to prevent taxes being collected on Catholic property.

FORMER PRESIDENT

OF THE WABASH TO BE DROPPED AS DEFENDANT

Joseph Ramsey Is to Be Used as a Witness in the Government's Railway Case.

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 28.—Joseph Ramsey, Jr., ex-president of the Wabash railroad, has been dropped by United States District Attorney Dyer from the list of defendants in the suit of the government against the Terminal Railroad association. Ramsey it is said on good authority will be used as one of the government's principal witnesses in the suit. This Ramsey denies, saying that he has proved to the satisfaction of the district attorney and his associates in the suit that he had no connection with the Terminal company for the past three or four years.

Ramsey, it will be remembered, was forced out of the presidency of the Wabash by George Gould after he had made an ineffectual attempt to gain control of the system through proxies he sought from the stockholders. Gould roads are largely interested in the terminal association.

The suit is set for next Monday in the United States circuit court here.

FARMER SHOT DEAD

BY SON WHOM HE HAD THREATENED TO KILL

Angry Father Started Out Upon a War of Extermination—Planned to Commit Suicide.

Dallas, Tex., Dec. 28.—Rufus Hughes, a rice farmer, was killed at the home of a married son, 20 miles east of here by another son, Charles Hughes, 19 years old.

The father, in a frenzy of anger, armed himself with two pistols and declared he was going to kill both his sons and his daughter-in-law and then commit suicide. The younger son, who was inside the house, seized a Winchester from the doorway of the house and shot his father dead in the front yard where he was standing.

The boy is under arrest awaiting judicial investigation. The family are among the most prominent of the farming people of Rockwall and Kaufman counties.

HAZING CHARGE

Taken Up at Annapolis Against Midshipmen Coffin.

Annapolis, Md., Dec. 28.—One day sufficed for the hearing of both sides of the case of Midshipman Trenmor Coffin, Jr., who was placed on trial today at the naval academy before a court martial appointed by Admiral Sands, superintendent of the academy, on the charge of hazing Midshipman Jerdon P. Kimbrough, of Tennessee. Although Kimbrough was unable to identify Coffin as the midshipman who "stood him on his head" for 10 minutes and caused him to be taken to sick quarters unconscious, Commander Harrison, the judge advocate, made out a strong case by introducing a "confession" made by Coffin to Lieut. Commander McVeigh, the officer in charge of Bancroft hall the morning after the hazing. At that time he had "stood Kimbrough on his head," but asked permission to resign from the academy.

The trial will close tomorrow with a brief session. The court will then take up the case of Midshipman Stephen Decatur, first class, who is accused of hazing under five specifications.

BUILDING AND LOAN

First Workmen's Association Held an Election of Officers.

A meeting of the First Workmen's Building & Loan association held in the council chamber of the K. of C. rooms Thursday night when the election of officers and directors took place, resulting as follows:

President, Henry Kemp.
Vice President, Sam B. Hartung.
Secretary, Joseph Wingerter.
Treasurer, Emil Walther.
Directors, Albert Offenberg, John Nist, Emil Sanders, John Freitag, E. A. Forry, Lorenz Liebig, Ernest Freitag, and Valentine Daeckerow.

Albert Offenberg was elected assistant secretary.

Secretary Wingerter stated that the organization was in a flourishing condition.

In Farthest Iowa.

George Heitland left for Belmont to get his wife which he recently married. Harm Owen had his team shot the other day.

John Bosma wore a new suit last Sunday.

Though she be sick unto death you will find a powder rag under her pillow—(Titonea (Iowa) Topics).

Harmon Can Borrow Big Sum.

Knoxville, Tenn., Dec. 28.—United States Circuit Judge H. H. Lorton here today granted an order allowing Judson Harmon of the C. H. & D. and Pere Marquette roads to borrow \$900,000 with which to pay interest on mortgage bonds.

Would Buy Gas Plant.

Akron, Dec. 28.—The business men of this city want the city to buy the Akron Gas company.

THE WHITES AND NEGROES IN A BATTLE

A Mississippi Neighborhood is Rid of a Lawless Band of Desperadoes When the Desperate Contest Ends.

Notorious Gang Had Terrorized the People for Ten Days—All Sorts of Crimes Charged to Their Doors.

Meridan, Miss., Dec. 28.—In a regular pitched battle between the whites and three negro desperadoes at Williams' cross roads, Choctaw county, Ala., two negroes were riddled with bullets, one placed in jail and the neighborhood rid of a lawless element that has terrorized the people for the past ten days. Kid George, alias John Weaver, and Bob Berry, alias "Sine" are dead, and Joe Johnson is in the county jail at Butler. George is alleged to have murdered a white man on the Gulf & Ship Island railroad some time ago and Berry and Johnson are believed to have been escaped convicts from the Alabama mines.

Ten days ago the negroes entered the vicinity and immediately established a reign of terror, robbing the whites and blacks and committing a series of more or less serious crimes. Friday night the three men, heavily armed, swooped down on a big party of negro dancers, stopped the dance and robbed the participants in true western style, two keeping the negroes covered with weapons while the third went through them. In leaving after getting considerable money, clothes and jewelry, they threatened death to any one who told of the robbery.

Saturday the negro men who were robbed went to York, Ala., and told the officers and white people and a posse was organized to kill or capture the desperadoes.

J. F. Woods, a prominent merchant of the neighborhood offered a hundred dollars reward and Jake Wabington was sent as a lone scout to locate the desperadoes. His experience was thrilling. Wabington entered a negro cabin kept by an old negro woman where the three had taken refuge. He pretended to be drunk, saving his life on several occasions by the splendid acting of the part. He promised to return on the following day with a jug of whiskey. In leaving Johnson attempted to shoot him in the back, but was prevented on account of the promise to bring the whiskey. Late Christmas day he reached York again, told of the location of the men and the small cavalcade started out.

About noon yesterday the cabin was reached. The men hid in the woods around the house and Wabington again went to the cabin with the whiskey, closing the door behind him. The suspense became intolerable, and the whites were preparing for a grand rush when the door opened and Wabington backed out, accompanied by the three negroes, each carrying all the arms in his possession. It developed that Wabington had suggested a game of craps, he having supplied himself with considerable money for the purpose. Wabington and the negroes cleaned off a spot near the house and began the game, the whites creeping slowly around the little party.

When close enough the whites showed themselves and called on the negroes to surrender. Caught in a trap the negroes fought like demons. Snatching up their weapons they opened fire at close range. Over one hundred shots were exchanged. Berry fell dead at the first volley and George was badly wounded.

Bleeding from many wounds, George pulled himself to an upright position against a tree, propping himself in that position and worked both hands in shooting at the whites. Several volleys were fired into the negro, his body being a mass of lead, but he was game and fought as long as he was able to lift a finger. He lived until late in the evening, defiant even in his dying moments.

Johnson quickly surrendered when he saw the force he was contending with and was lodged in jail. None of the white men were wounded.

UNCLE SAM SUED

For the Value of 25 Steamboats Seized in 1864.

Washington, Dec. 28.—The United States government, through Secretary of the Treasury Shaw and Treasurer Treat, has been sued in the district supreme court by C. W. Wood, trustee for the heirs of J. E. Montgomery. The claim is for the value of 25 steamboats seized by the government in 1864. Montgomery had been in the Confederate service, but it is alleged that he resigned in 1863, and operated his steamboats, valued at \$250,000.

HE TELLS OF WORK DONE ON THE CANAL

Chief Engineer Stevens Says There Was an Absence of Harmony at Panama as Failure Was Expected.

Makes Disclosures and Believes Much of the Labor Has Been Useless—Recommends a Change in Reports.

Washington, Dec. 28.—Chief Engineer Stevens, in charge of the construction work on the Panama canal officially declares that when he assumed his duties on the isthmus in July, after J. H. Wallace's unexpected and sensational retirement, he found existing there an abnormal state of feeling among the employees manifesting itself in lack of interest, absence of harmony, discouragement and indifference.

Even divisions of the same departments were affected. This, he explains, was in a great measure due to the "grounded impression that the policy which was being pursued in carrying out the work was not a successful one and that only failure could be expected," although the sudden change in executive officers, senseless rumors and dread of epidemic were not to be lost sight of.

Stevens goes further than Secretary of War Taft in a recent speech. He corroborates the charge that the work under Wallace in the Culebra cut was worse than useless, as it was done in accordance with no plans and the excavated material will have to be again handled. This portion of the canal, the commission admits, is the largest single factor in the construction of the isthmian waterway. When Stevens got there he found 11 steam shovels and several thousand men at work and about one million cubic yards of material removed.

The steam shovels, Stevens reported, were "served by such equipment as could be picked up on the work as left by the French, in the nature of small Belgian locomotives and dump cars," and operated on lines, which, by the utmost stretch of the imagination could not be termed railroad tracks.

Thousands of yards of material, he charges, were loaded and hauled by this equipment, over these tracks to land dumps, the latter improperly located, and in character unsuited to the end in view. While conceding that the original purpose under which this work was undertaken was a wise one, he declares the long continuance of it and the utter absence, as far as it could be learned, of any thought or attempt to plan a systematic method of handling the work as a whole, would seem to be open to grave criticism.

It was for this reason, he explains, that all actual excavation work possible was ordered suspended and only resumed largely to enable an organization to be held together, along an intelligent plan, after a re-adjustment.

These disclosures appear in a report made public this evening.

Stevens says that the railroad tracks have been built, and a large amount of transportation and auxiliary equipment ordered and that the work will be begun and prosecuted, although by reason of the wet season, the working year will be about eight and not 12 months.

The chief engineer declares, however, that the construction of a canal is one of magnitude and not of miracles, "although," he adds, "the time required, and the consequent cost will be more dependent upon the kind of canal to be built to a far greater extent than has been, I fear, appreciated."

While the labor problem is a serious one, he believes it will be readily solved, and a higher degree of efficiency attained by prompt methods of payment, proper amount of well cooked food, and a more careful selection of foreman and superintendents.

Stevens earnestly advocates the removal of civil service regulations, which he declares are unwarranted and hampers the work. He wants legislation that will take the canal project from under the eight hour scope which restriction the commissioners in their report state will increase the cost of the canal many millions of dollars, and benefit few American laborers on the isthmus, while burdening American labor north by increased taxation.

Stevens strikes at red tape, which his predecessor, Wallace, declared prompted his retirement. Stevens makes this appeal:

"A thorough business administration, unhampered by any tendency to technicalities, into which many of our public works sometimes drift, is absolutely necessary, and such an administration honestly and energetically carried out will be the best guarantee of the successful completion of this project. There are obstacles enough to be encountered and overcome, which are unavoidable, without creating unnecessary ones."

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The canal commission in its report, urges that all laws for the isthmus, save those of the sanitation and police be abolished, and declares with the chief engineer that a speedy determination of the type of canal should be made. It touches upon former engineer Wallace's work by saying:

"The work on the Culebra cut was undertaken with the idea that the excavating done would be useful in any plan or any type of canal that might be adopted. This is only true to a limited extent."

Governor General Magoon, in his report, declares that malaria, and not yellow fever, is the disease that is to be fought and points to the havoc wrought by it. Quinine is a sure preventative and he says 475,000 grains were used in September.

BOLD HOLD-UP

PAYMASTER ROBBED OF \$5,000 BY FIVE ARMED MEN

Officers Searching the Entire Country-side for the Highwaymen—Reward of \$1,000 Is Offered.

New Brunswick, N. J., Dec. 28.—No arrests have as yet been made in connection with the hold-up of Paymaster William Schieck and his assistant, although posses of officers are scouring the entire countryside. The hold-up was one of the most daring in the history of the state and took place at 1:30 o'clock this afternoon near the Raritan driving park track on the main road to Bonhamtown, where trolley cars run every few minutes. Five men, four of whom were masked held up Paymaster William Schieck and William F. Harkins and got away with a satchel of money amounting to nearly \$5,000.

Paymaster Schieck and Mr. Harkins started out to pay the 300 men employed by the Delaware River Quarry & Construction Co.

The two men had just passed the driving park and were driving on the main road when the five men jumped from behind a clump of trees and bushes and made an attack upon them taking them completely by surprise. Neither Schieck or Harkins was armed.

The men were seen after the hold-up near the Stetson station of the Pennsylvania railroad and later were ascertained to be on their way to Newmarket. It is believed all of them had been former employees of the quarry company and were familiar with the way they paid their men off. In the satchel was the money to pay off the 300 men, their wages for the past two weeks.

Detective Frawley of the Pennsylvania railroad force and several other officers are out after the men tonight. A reward of \$1,000 has been offered for their capture.

The news was brought here late this afternoon by one of the local rural delivery carriers that he had passed five men resembling the robbers on a route which is toward Newmarket.

McKeever Outpoints Clancy.

Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 28.—In a fast, clean and clever six round bout at the Broadway A. C. McKeever of Philadelphia outpointed Jack Clancy of Frisco.

MARKET REPORT.

PITTSBURGH LIVE STOCK.

Pittsburgh, Pa., Dec. 28.—Cattle—Supply light, market steady. Choice, \$5.40@5.60; prime, \$5.10@5.30; good mixed, \$4.70@5.10; tidy, \$4.40@4.60; fair, \$3.60@4.25; common, \$3.00@3.40; good to common heifers, \$3.75@4.25; common to fair heifers, \$2.50@3.50; common to fat bulls, \$2.00@2.80; good fresh cows and springers, \$3.50@5.00; common to fair, \$2.00@3.50.

Sheep and Lambs—Supply light; market steady. Prime wethers \$5.70@5.90; good mixed, \$5.40@5.65; fair mixed, \$4.80@5.25; spring lambs, \$5.00@5.80; veal calves, \$8.00@8.75; heavy and thin, \$4.00@5.00.

Hogs—Receipts 25 double decks; market fairly active, prices 10 cents lower. Prime heavy and medium, \$5.45; yorkers and pigs, \$5.40@5.45; roughs, \$4.00@4.70; stags, \$3.60@3.63.

CHICAGO GRAIN.

Chicago, Dec. 28.—There was a flutter in corn today. Those who were short for this month delivery were being plucked and that created the disturbance. December corn that calls for No. 2 or better without the privilege of substituting a lower grade at a great discount, sold early in the day as low as 47 cents. Near the end of the session it was wanted at 50 cents and at the immediate close was 49 3/4. Yesterday old December left off at 47 1/2 cents. The new December which shorts can cover by tenders of No. 3 corn at five cents a bushel penalty closed only 1 1/4 cent higher for the day.

May corn lost 1-8@1-4c. Armour bought so much wheat that the price of that commodity only suffered 1-4c for the May delivery, although there was nothing but inducements to sell in the news.

Oats left off 5-8c higher for December and without change for May.

Provisions were lower.

Cash sales, wheat—No. 1 red 87@88c; No. 2 hard 82@84c; No. 1 northern 84@87c; No. 2 northern 82 1/2@83c.

Corn—No. 2 white and yellow 47@47 1/2c.

Oats—No. 2, 30 1-4@30 1-2c; No. 2 white 32@32 1-2c.

A SPIRITED DENIAL BY LOUIS PAYN

Tells to the Investigating Committee That He Never Received a Payment of \$40,000 From the Mutual Reserve.

Declares That Any Man Suggesting Such Thing Would Have Been Fortunate in Escaping With His Head.

New York, Dec. 28.—Spiritedly denying that he had ever received a payment of \$40,000 from the Mutual Reserve Life Insurance Co., Louis M. Payn, former insurance commissioner of the state of New York declared with much emphasis before the legislative insurance investigating committee today that "any man who on earth who had ever suggested such proposition to me would have been a fortunate fellow if he got out of my presence with his head on his shoulders."

Mr. Payn told the committee of an effort Richard A. McCurdy, president of the Mutual, had made to make an appointment with him regarding the admission of Prussian insurance companies to do business in the state of New York. Mr. Payn declared that he neither trusted the state attorney general's office nor had faith in the legal decisions of that department and that, in view of this lack of faith, he had employed Judge J. Ryder Cady as special counsel to act for him when he was insurance commissioner and had refused personally to see Mr. McCurdy, sending Judge Cady in his stead to represent him.

Interrupting the testimony of Mr. Payn, Judge Cady was called to the stand and testified regarding his interview with Mr. McCurdy, of the Mutual.

"Mr. McCurdy iterated and reiterated his sense of disappointment," said Judge Cady, "over the decision of Mr. Payn to admit the Prussian companies. He finally said to me: 'Mr. Cady, what are your relations with the insurance department?'"

"I said: 'My relations are those of counsel who is consulted time to time upon matters upon the superintendent requires legal advice.'"

"He said: 'You are not an officer.'"

"I said: 'No, I am not an officer of the state.'"

"He said: 'Is there any reason you should not accept a retainer on behalf of the Mutual Life upon question?'"

"I said: 'Mr. McCurdy, the very reason why I should not accept a retainer on behalf of the Mutual while I have not been counsel in particular matter in which the action of the superintendent has been made, nor consulted by the superintendent as to what decision should be made by him in the disposition of have been requested by him to do here and have an interview with him have had with you, and I regard self to that extent as his representative and to such an extent as it is impossible for me to consider proposition of being employed or take a retainer from the Mutual. More than that, Mr. McCurdy, I regard this question as closed.'"

At the time of this interview, Mutual was barred from Prussia as a retaliation, Mr. McCurdy desired the Prussian companies barred from doing business in the state of New York.

Mr. Hughes then wanted to know of Mr. Payn, when he was recalled, why he had at one time refused admission to the Prussian companies, and afterward admitted those companies, while Prussia still refused to let the Mutual Life do business in Prussia. Mr. Payn explained that the general subject referred to had been under the consideration of the state department at Washington and when he did finally agree to Prussian companies, the same as required by law, had all American companies allied with the Prussian country. The Mutual, however, never made application.

Robert H. Hunter, first deputy superintendent of insurance, testified before the committee that complete reports of the investigations of life insurance companies were seldom turned into the state department.

Official Indicted.

Tiffin, O., Dec. 28.—Ex-County firmary Director Sherman has been indicted for embezzlement. It is charged that he sold farm products and pocketed the proceeds.

Wounded Three in Row.

Stevensville, O., Dec. 28.—James Arthur, a miner, while drunk, fired upon a crowd in a Dillonvale saloon, wounding three men.